

Currently, there is a great deal of support for LB 972. Well, I'm not comparing 972 to LB 518, but I'm going to overlay Senator Vard Johnson's arguments on 972 to LB 518. I want to give you a few facts and figures. Senator Wesely has passed out an informational sheet as to what the caseload and stuff like that has been for the last five years. Now, I'm not here to oppose LB 518. I'm here to give you some facts and figures that I want you to think about. You know, and in the years that Senator Johnson has said in the last...since 1980 we have had very little increase, no increase in ADC. Well, that may be the case because our ADC costs in this state have been fairly uniform, fairly under control. In the last five years there has been a \$4.6 million increase, 20.5 percent change, with an average increase of 3.1 percent per year. If you compare that to our state budget, in the same time period we have had a \$184 million increase, or 25.2 percent change. If you compare ADC in the state budget, it's not out of control, it's not excessive, and, as Vard Johnson made a good point, we have not raised it and maybe we should. The point I want to make is that these type of things do indeed contest with everything, including the education proposals that Senator Vard Johnson feels are so sacred and they have done this for a number of years now. In that same amount of years that our state budget has increased by 25 percent, the total Department of Social Services budget has increased by 78 percent, has increased from \$93.7 million to \$167 million, a 78 percent increase, which is...that \$67 million increase that they have had over in the Department of Social Services, that, excuse me, \$73 million increase they have had in the Department of Social Services has been almost 45 percent of the total budget increase in this state and that's come during very tight revenue times. Now there is more of a problem with, you know, not a problem but more of a budget problem, I want to preface that, with Medicaid where our...the budget for that for the state has increased by 111 percent in those last five years. The point that I'm making, these type of things do indeed compete with funding for education and they've done it for a number of years. In the same period of time that ADC has increased by 20 percent, which is reasonable, the same point in time that our Social Services budget has increased by 78 percent, the same point of time that our Medicaid costs have increased by 111 percent, our state aid to education has decreased by 8 percent. The only point I'm making, just like Senator Haberman's LB 972, LB 518 competes with state dollars for education. The only point I'm making is, Senator Johnson, those in glass houses shouldn't throw stones.